

**CONFIDENTIAL**CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~/CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLYCOUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany REPORTTOPIC Military Information from the Wittenberg AreaEVALUATION                      PLACE OBTAINED                     DATE OF CONTENT                     DATE OBTAINED                      DATE PREPARED 20 October 1950REFERENCES                     PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)                     REMARKS                     **RETURN TO CIA**

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1. On 22 September 1950 an engineer unit was observed constructing a pontoon bridge across the Elbe River south of Hohndorf (N 52/E 47). The river fairway was blocked, being open to civilian traffic only three times a week.                      the bridge had already been used by small tank units. Two motorboats were on the bank of the river. Eighty-six motor vehicles of the engineer unit                      were dispersed over the area along the river bank. 50X1-HUM
2. Excavations for tanks were started in the triangle of Zallmsdorf-Naundorf-Mellnitz, north of Seyda (N 52/E 57), in mid-August 1950. About 150 tanks were seen in the new tank assembly area between 22 and 27 September 1950. Tank troops and truck-borne troops were observed moving through Goelsdorf-Zahna for about four hours on the night of 26 September 1950. The troops followed the dirt road from Dennewitz toward Wittenberg.                      50X1-HUM
3.
4. On the evening of 26 September 1950 the Pioneer Kaserne, Wittenberg, was partly lighted and the Tauentzien Kaserne completely lighted. 50X1-HUM
5. A tank unit crossed the railroad tracks of the Jueterbog-Wittenberg line near Klebitz, about 5 km east of Zahna, at 5:15 p.m. on 26 September 1950. Three T-34 tanks, five trucks and one tank truck which brought up the rear of the unit, stopped before the railroad barrier on the Kurtslipsdorf-Klebitz road. The vehicles were headed south. The other elements of the unit had crossed the track before the barrier went down.

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6. A convoy consisting of jeep [redacted] with three officers, truck [redacted] with about eight soldiers, seventeen T-34 tanks, four trucks and one tank truck, [redacted] halted on the outskirts of Wittenberg about 7:30 p.m. on 26 September 1950. The convoy had come along Highway No. 2 from a northeasterly direction. It continued along highway No. 2 about 8 p.m. and went southward across the Elbe River. It was said that a convoy of about the same strength and composition had passed through Wittenberg ahead of the convoy which was observed and that another convoy of similar strength passed through the city after 8 p.m. \*

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- \* [redacted] Comment. With the exception of one vehicle of the 14th Gds Mecz Div, all motor vehicles observed at the pontoon bridge across the Elbe River, in Seyda and in Wittenberg belong to the 6th and 7th Gds Tank Divs and to headquarters units of the Third Gds Mecz Army. The same units had participated in a major stream-crossing practice in early October 1949 also. At that time a bridge had been thrown across the Elbe River east of Wittenberg. It is believed that all movements described in the present report were in connection with the large-scale final maneuvers of the Third Gds Mecz Army elements in the Wittenberg area.

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